Current claim 2:

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the admitting step includes the steps of:

(a) associating with each call type a call bandwidth; and

(b) admitting the incoming call if the call bandwidth of the incoming call is not greater than a spare bandwidth that is associated with the facility for use by the incoming call.

Current claim 3:

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of identifying the call type of the incoming call prior to performing step (b).

Current claim 4:

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of blocking the incoming call if the incoming call is not admitted.

Current claim 5:

5. The method of claim 2 wherein step (b) further includes the step of reducing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call.

Current claim 6:

6. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of increasing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call when the admitted incoming call departs.

Cancel claim 8.

Current claim 9:

9. A method for use in a packet communications system, which provides access to at least one virtual circuit, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a call type of an incoming call; each call type having an associated bandwidth;

admitting the incoming call to use the virtual circuit if the associated bandwidth of the incoming call is not greater than a spare bandwidth that is associated with the virtual circuit; and

updating a count of a number of voice calls currently admitted, when the admitted incoming call is a voice call.

Current claim 10:

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of blocking the incoming call if the incoming call is not admitted.

Current claim 11:

11. The method of claim 9 wherein step of admitting the call further includes the step of reducing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call.

Current claim 12:

12. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of increasing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call when the admitted incoming call departs.

Cancel claim 14.

Current claim 15:

15. A method for use in a packet communications system, which provides access to at least one virtual circuit, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a call type of an incoming call; each call type having an associated bandwidth;

admitting the incoming call to use the virtual circuit if the associated bandwidth of the incoming call is not greater than a spare bandwidth that is associated with the virtual circuit;

responsive to the admitted call, providing a stream of ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) packets for conveying information associated with the admitted call; and

responsive to the stream of AAL2 packets, providing a respective stream of ATM cells for transmission over the virtual circuit; and

updating a count of a number of voice calls currently admitted, when the admitted incoming call is a voice call.

Current claim 16:

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of blocking the incoming call if the incoming call is not admitted.

Current claim 17:

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the admitting step includes the step of reducing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call.

Current claim 18:

18. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of increasing the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call when the admitted incoming call departs.

Cancel claims 20 - 26.

Current Claim 28:

28. Apparatus for use in a packet communications system, which provides access to at least one virtual circuit, the apparatus comprising:

a call classifier for determining a call type of an incoming call; each call type having an associated bandwidth and for admitting the incoming call to use the virtual circuit if the associated bandwidth of the incoming call is not greater than a spare bandwidth that is associated with the virtual circuit;

a processor responsive to the admitted call for providing a stream of ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) packets for conveying information associated with the admitted call; and

a processor responsive to the stream of AAL2 packets for providing a respective stream of ATM cells for transmission over the virtual circuit

wherein the call classifier updates a count of a number of voice calls currently admitted, when the admitted incoming call is a voice call.

Current claim 29:

29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the call classifier blocks the incoming call if the incoming call is not admitted.

Current claim 30:

30. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the call classifier reduces the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call.

Current claim 31:

31. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the call classifier increases the spare bandwidth by an amount equal to the call bandwidth of the admitted incoming call when the admitted incoming call departs.

Cancel claims 33 - 34.

Remarks

This is a continuation application of Application No. 08/965515.

Applicants request entry of this amendment to put the application in better form for appeal.

In the Office Action of October 19, 1999 with respect to the parent, Application No. 08/965515, claims 1 – 6, 9 – 12, 15 – 18 and 28 – 31 were rejected, as described further below. Applicants respectfully maintain their disagreement as stated in applicants' response of January 4, 2000 and request reconsideration.